

## USDA Releases Fourth Report from Beef 2007–08 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the fourth descriptive report from its Beef 2007–08 study. The report, *Part IV: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08* was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Beef 2007–08 is the third national study of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry conducted by NAHMS. The latest study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's beef cow-calf population. Twenty-four states participated in the study. These states accounted for 79.6 percent of U.S. beef-cow operations and 87.8 percent of the nation's beef cows. Here are a few highlights from the fourth Beef 2007–08 descriptive report:

- For the operations that sold weaned calves intended for purposes other than breeding during 2007, about one-half (49.8 percent) sold them immediately at the time of weaning.
- For cows sold for purposes other than breeding in 2007, 33.0 percent were sold due to pregnancy status (open or aborted), and 32.1 percent were sold because of age or bad teeth.
- Almost 7 of 10 operations (68.9 percent) vaccinated any beef cattle or calves in 2007.
- Overall, 60.6 percent of operations did not vaccinate beef calves for respiratory disease from birth to sale, and 30.9 percent of calves were on these operations.
- A higher percentage of operations in the Central region (67.9 percent) and the West region (56.4 percent) vaccinated any cattle or calves against bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) compared with operations in the Southeast region (28.9 percent).
- Nearly 6 out of 10 operations (57.2 percent) believed that removing calves that tested positive for persistent infection with BVD virus affected the health of the remaining cattle in the herd.

- Of operations that believed removing calves that tested positive for persistent infection with BVD virus affected the health of the remaining cattle in the herd, the majority expected improved reproductive efficiency, reduced sickness and treatment costs, and reduced death loss (89.7, 96.9, and 95.7 percent of operations, respectively).
- Approximately 1 out of 20 operations (5.7 percent) did any fecal testing during the previous three years to evaluate parasite burden.
- More than two out of three operations (68.0 percent) used oral or injectable antibiotics to treat disease in any cattle or calves.

*Part IV: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08* is available at the NAHMS Web site: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov/>.

**Note to Stakeholders:** Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Lyndsay Cole at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail: [lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov).

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